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Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 15
Report of the Commission on its thirtieth session

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: M. D. **Asthana** (India)

Chapter ____. Follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council's high-level and coordination segments and to its resolutions

(Agenda item 7)

1. The Commission considered item 7 on the basis of an informal paper prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division (a) summarizing the ministerial communiqué and summary of the President of the Economic and Social Council of the 1998 high-level segment of the Council,[1] the agreed conclusions of the 1998 coordination segment of the Council,[2] and Council resolutions 1998/44 and 1998/46 and decision 1998/290; (b) reviewing the implications for the Statistical Commission; and (c) setting out the relevant actions taken by the Statistical Commission.

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission agreed to bring to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the following actions that it had taken consistent with the Council's requests:

(a) The Commission has reviewed its functioning on a number of occasions and introduced improvements, including a review at its thirtieth session, the results of which are set out in detail in chapter ___;

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(b) The Bureau of the Commission has always played a crucial role, particularly through the functioning of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, of which the Bureau comprises the core membership;

(c) For the thirtieth session of the Commission, the Chairman of the twenty-ninth session is serving as a Vice-Chairman to promote continuity, a practice that is expected to continue;

(d) The Bureau of the Commission met with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council during the Commission's thirtieth session at the invitation of the President of the Council to try to find ways to improve their interaction;

(e) The government representatives attending the Commission (both members and non-members of the Commission) are almost always Directors-General of national statistical offices;

(f) The Commission has made its documents concise and issue-oriented and they are largely available in all the official languages of the Commission at the time of Commission sessions;

(g) Issues are referred by the Commission to other functional commissions as appropriate;

(h) The Commission adopts a decision-oriented report on its sessions;

(i) The Commission works within its mandate and cooperates with other functional commissions as needed;

(j) The regional commissions participate fully in the work of the Commission;

(k) The Commission has reviewed and supported the work of the United Nations Statistics Division on indicators, including the draft of the report prepared by the Division, which will be considered by the Economic and Social Council at its informal meeting on indicators in May 1999 (see chapter ___ for details).

3. The Commission expressed its willingness to take up relevant issues that might be referred to it by other functional commissions to ensure a more integrated approach to issues of concern to the Economic and Social Council.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV, para. 5.

[2] Ibid., chap. VI, para. 3.